



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

28 March 2006

PER101163.E

Peru: Racial discrimination against ethnic Chinese; whether they are targeted by criminals due to their ethnicity or perceived financial means; prevalence of discriminatory attitudes and behaviour against them by Peruvian citizens in general; availability of state protection (2004 - March 2006)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

No specific information on the mistreatment of ethnic Chinese in Peru was found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

Sources indicated, however, that Chinese immigrants were subject to hardship in the past. In the 1850s, Chinese labourers were brought to Peru to be [translation] "exploited" in the coastal haciendas where they worked (FEDEPAZ 16 Mar. 2006). During the Second World War, all Asian immigrants were believed to be Japanese, and were, therefore discriminated against (CNDH 16 Mar. 2006).

Sources have indicated that Peru has had a long tradition of Chinese and Japanese immigration and that immigrants of Chinese origin [translation] "are well integrated" (CNDH 15 Mar. 2006) or "have assimilated" into Peruvian society (FEDEPAZ 16 Mar. 2006). Approximately 100,000 young Chinese men migrated to Peru between 1849 and 1874 (Asociación Peruano China 2005). In February 2000, according to the China consul in Peru, there were 25,000 Chinese holding residency rights in Peru, 85,000 Chinese-born Peruvians and 1.5 million Peruvians by birth with at least one parent or grand parent born in China (ibid.).

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 indicated that, in Peru,

"[t]he law provides all citizens equality before the law and forbids discrimination, including for reasons of race, origin, and language. The law criminalizes racial discrimination. The country's population included several racial minorities, the largest of which were persons of Asian and African descent" (8 Mar. 2006).

The National Committee for Human Rights in Peru (Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Perú, CNDH) heads a "Roundtable against Racism" (*Mesa contra el racismo*) in which 67 organizations participate in weekly meetings (CNDH 15 Mar. 2006) CNDH's representative at the Roundtable stated that, [translation] "quite to the contrary, there is no racism against ethnic Asians" (ibid.). According to the CNDH representative, racial discrimination is more directed against people of indigenous origin (ibid.).

On 16 March 2006, a representative from the Ecumenical Foundation for Development and Peace (Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz, FEDEPAZ) stated that [translation] "in general, the situation is not serious" for Chinese immigrants and that there had been no serious cases of discrimination against ethnic Chinese in Peru. Since it started working on the topic of racism and migrants' rights in 2001, the representative stated that FEDEPAZ had not received a single complaint from an ethnic Chinese (16 Mar. 2006). The non governmental organization, which is also a member of the CNDH, has worked in the human rights field for 13 years (FEDEPAZ 16 Mar. 2006). FEDEPAZ also participates in the CNDH Roundtable on Racism (ibid.).

The CNDH representative indicated that the general Peruvian population has a [translation] "positive stereotype" of immigrants from Asia and sees them as "hard-working" (15 Mar. 2006). According to the representative, Alberto Fujimori, the former president of Peru and a Japanese immigrant, used this stereotype to his advantage on the political scene (CNDH 15 Mar. 2006). The FEDEPAZ representative also indicated that the Chinese immigrants [translation] "are known to be hard-working" (16 Mar. 2006).

According to Yong Tataje, president of the Peruvian Chinese Association (Asociación Peruano China) [translation] "the first years of Chinese immigration were difficult but over time, everyone learned from one another" (*La Ultima* 15 Oct. 2005).

Chinese integration, according to Tataje, is also evident in Peruvian cooking (ibid.). As many ethnic Chinese are very involved in the Peruvian food sector and own a lot of restaurants (FEDEPAZ 16 Mar. 2006), Peruvian food has become a mix (*comida mestiza*) of traditional and Chinese food (ibid.). According to the president of the Peruvian Chinese Association, there are approximately 5,000 Chinese restaurants (*Chifa*) in Lima alone (*La Ultima* 15 Oct. 2005).

Ethnic Chinese also own many businesses in the cities' old neighbourhoods; for instance, there is a Chinese quarter (*barrio Chino*) in Lima (FEDEPAZ 16 Mar. 2006) which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2005 (*La Ultima* 15 Oct. 2005). According to the daily newspaper *La Ultima*, there is a lot of interest among the general population in celebrating Chinese holidays such as the New Year or the Chinese Moon Festival (15 Oct. 2005).

In June of 2005, Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo visited China inviting Chinese entrepreneurs and tourists to come to his country and welcoming them with [translation] "open arms" (Peru 27 Jan. 2005; *24 horas* 4 June 2005). New immigrants from China and Korea can take advantage of a Peruvian law that facilitates the opening of a new business (FEDEPAZ 16 Mar. 2006).

No specific information on whether ethnic Chinese were targeted by criminals due to their ethnicity or perceived financial means was found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Asociación Peruano China. 2005. "Los primeros pasos." *De la misma raíz*. Sent to the Research Directorate by a representative.

Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Perú (CNDH). 16 March 2006. Correspondence from a representative.

_____. 15 March 2006. Telephone interview with a representative.

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005. 8 March 2006. "Peru." United States Department of State. <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61738.htm>> [Accessed on 13 Mar. 2006]

Fundación EcuMénica para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FEDEPAZ). 16 March 2006. Telephone interview with a representative.

Peru. 25 January 2005. Presidencia del Gobierno. "Presidente Toledo resalta que relaciones bilaterales y de cooperación con República Popular China han llegado a su nivel más alto." <<http://www.presidencia.gob.pe/imprimir.asp?codigoPubs=2969>> [Accessed on 17 Mar. 2006]

La Ultima [Lima, in Spanish]. 15 October 2005. "Los primeros chinos llegaron al centro de Lima hace 150 años." <<http://www.laultima.com/noticia.php?id=14287&idcategoria=4&seccion=Nacional>> [Accessed on 20 Mar. 2006]

24horas.com. 4 June 2005. "Confiep invita a empresarios chinos a invertir en el Perú." <<http://www.24horas.com.pe/economia/2005/06/04/004.php>> [Accessed on 13 Mar. 2006]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: The Defensoría del Pueblo did not provide information on this topic.

Internet sites, including: *El Comercio* [Lima], Embassy of China in Peru, Embassy of Peru in China, Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos de Perú (CNDH), *La República* [Peru], World News Connection (WNC).

The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.